MARVEL
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AVENGERS
1,000, 00 BC
REVEALED!
THE PHOENIX'S CONNECTION TO THE BIRTH OF THOR!
AARON
WALKER
WHITE

At the dawn of humanity, there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's mightiest and earliest heroes first found themselves united against a common threat--on that day, the Prehistoric Avengers were born. To fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

AVENGERS 1,000,000 BC

"FOR THE PHOENIX SO LOVED THE WORLD"

All-Father Odin! The Starbrand! Agamotto, the Sorcerer Supreme! The Black Panther! The Ghost Rider! The Iron Fist! The Phoenix!

The adventures of these Prehistoric Avengers were lost to history until Iron Man time-traveled to the past and first learned of the heroic predecessors to the modern Avengers.

In the present, the Phoenix Force hinted that the thunder god Thor did not know the true story of his birth, a tale that has remained secret... until now.

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LIKE ALL GREAT LOVE STORIES...IT BEGAN WITH A KISS.
HE WAS LAUFEY, KING OF THE FROST GIANTS OF JOTUNHEIM.
SHE WAS HYVE, THE WAR-BEARER, MOTHER OF INFESTATION...
...FROM A PLACE CALLED THE NEGATIVE ZONE.
HISTORY DOES NOT RECORD HOW THEY MET.
ONLY THAT THEY CAME TO MIDGARD... TO THE EARTH OF ONE MILLION YEARS AGO...TO CONSUMMATE THEIR LOVE...

...THROUGH CONQUEST AND SLAUGHTER.
SUCH WAS THE POWER OF THEIR UNION THAT IT MOST ASSUREDLY WOULD HAVE ANNIHILATED HUMANITY...
...IN ITS EARLIEST AND MOST PRIMITIVE OF DAYS...

...WERE IT NOT FOR EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES.

THE BATTLE LASTED FOR SEVENTY DAYS AND SEVENTY NIGHTS.
BILLIONS OF WAR VERMIN DIED BEFORE THEIR QUEEN WOULD SUCCUMB TO THE SHAME OF RETREAT.
THE UNION OF THE SONS OF YMIR AND THE INSECTOID HORDES OF THE NEGATIVE ZONE WAS NOT MEANT TO BE.
LAUFEY'S RAGE WAS A ROARING BLIZZARD.
AND THAT DAY, HE SWORE A BLOOD DEBT AGAINST ALL THE GODS AND MAN-BEASTS OF MIDGARD.

AS HE FLED BACK TO UTGARD, LAUFEY VOWED TO SOMEDAY TURN MIDGARD TO ASH AND SLUSH.
WHILE THE YOUNG REALM OF MIDGARD...
...LED BY ITS MIGHTY PROTECTORS... VOWED STUBBORNLY... TO ENDURE.
IT HAD BEEN YEARS SINCE THE EARTH'S GREAT POWERS HAD FIRST COME TOGETHER TO DEFEAT THE MAD CELESTIAL.
IN THAT TIME, THEY HAD WAGED BATTLES BEYOND ALL IMAGINING. BUT AS EVER...
BLACK PANTHER!
...THEY HAD LIVED TO SEE THE DAWN.

HE WAS THE BEST OF MEN.
MAY THEY ALL GROW UP TO BE AS HE WAS.
AYE, THE PANTHER FOUGHT WELL. BUT AS YOU SAY...HE WAS BUT A MAN.
BEST TO NOT GET TOO ATTACHED TO ANY OF THEM, PHOENIX. THEY DO NOT LAST LONG.
THEY ARE NOT LIKE YOU OR I. BUT THEN...
...WHO IS?
ODIN...

A GREAT MAN IS DEAD! OUR COMRADE IN ARMS!
SHOW SOME RESPECT, ASGARDIAN!
I HAVE RESPECT FOR MINE OWN PASSIONS, MY LADY.
"PASSIONS YOU KNOW WELL."
FOR A BEING WHO CLAIMS TO BE OMNIPOTENT, YOU SEE SO VERY LITTLE SOMETIMES, DON'T YOU?
I AM THE WAY AND THE WRATH AND THE WONDER.
AND I SEE WHAT SHALL BE.
AND HOW TO MAKE IT SO.

MY CONDOLENCES.
TO YOU AND ALL OF THE PANTHER TRIBE.
YOUR GUARDIAN... FOUGHT ALONGSIDE GODS AND STAR-SPAWNED POWERS... WITH MORE COURAGE THAN ALL OF US COMBINED. YET I... I DON'T EVEN KNOW HIS TRUE NAME.
PLEASE KNOW... ANY PROTECTION THE PHOENIX CAN OFFER YOUR PEOPLE WILL BE YOURS.
HIS NAME WAS MOSI.
AND IF YOU WISH TO PROTECT US...
...THEN FORGET WE EXIST.
AFTERWARD, THE VICTORIOUS HEROES WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS, IN SILENCE.
EACH TO THEIR OWN DARKENED CORNER OF THE GLOBE. TO THEIR OWN PLACE AMONG THE CLOUDS.
AND THERE, THEY REMAINED. UNTIL THE CALL CAME FORTH AGAIN. THIS TIME...

...IT WAS THE CALL OF THE *GODS.*
ASGARD.
THE REALM ETERNAL.
"WHAT IS THIS, ODIN?"
YOU SENT WORD THAT A GREAT ***RECKONING*** HAD COME. BUT I SENSE NO DISTURBANCE HERE.
I CALLED, WIZARD...BECAUSE I NEEDED YOU ALL TOGETHER...

...FOR A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER!
IF THERE'S TROUBLE, WE'LL NEED EVERYONE. ANY WORD FROM THE PANTHER TRIBE?
NO ONE'S SEEN THEM SINCE THE FALL OF THEIR CHAMPION.
RRRRRRRGGH!
THE **STARBRAND** DEMANDS TO KNOW... WHY EXACTLY HAS THE LOUD GOD BROUGHT US HERE? WHERE IS THIS TROUBLE HE SPEAKS OF?
IT IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU. YOU MORTALS JUST CANNOT SEE IT.
FOR THE TROUBLE LIES... WITHIN MY ANCIENT **HEART.**
AND HERE NOW COMES THE **CURE.**
I FLEW AS FAST AS I COULD.
WHAT'S HAPPENED? ARE WE UNDER **ATTACK?**

APPARENTLY, THE ALL-FATHER HAS TROUBLE WITH HIS INNARDS. OTHER THAN THAT, WE HAVE NO IDEA.
ODIN, BY CALLING US HERE YOU HAVE LEFT THE PEOPLE OF EARTH UNDEFENDED. THE IRON FIST DEMANDS THAT YOU EXPLAIN YOURSELF.
THIS WAY AND ALL WILL BE REVEALED!
TOGETHER, WE HAVE SAVED MIDGARD MORE TIMES THAN IT MOST ASSUREDLY DESERVES.
BUT TODAY, WE GATHER IN HONOR OF AN EVEN GREATER PRIZE.
THAT OF LOVE!
ODIN...
WHAT... IS THIS?

MY LADY PHOENIX.
IT IS YOUR WEDDING DAY.
ODIN... YOU...YOU...
BEGIN THE CEREMONY!
AND SKIP TO THE END! MY LONGING CANNOT ENDURE ANOTHER MOMENT!
VERY WELL. BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME BY THE GODS OF ASGARD, YOU MAY--
SMACK

MY LOVE?
I...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
YOU ARE A FOOL OF A GOD!
AND YOU NEVER WILL!
THE PHOENIX FLEW LIKE A COMET THAT DAY. SETTING THE CLOUDS ALIGHT AS SHE PASSED THEM BY.
SHE FLEW WITH NO THOUGHT OF EVER LOOKING BACK.

YET SHE DID.
IT WILL DIE.
IF I LEAVE NOW...IT WILL ALL WITHER BEFORE IT BLOOMS.
AND NO ONE WILL EVEN KNOW THAT A PLANET CALLED THE EARTH EVER EXISTED.
THE PEOPLE ARE STILL TOO PRIMITIVE, HELPLESS AS BABES. THIS UNION OF PROTECTORS THAT I FORGED...HAS GROWN TOO FRACTURED.
AND EARTH'S GODS...
...ARE NO HELP TO ANYONE BUT THEMSELVES.
I HEAR THE STARS CALLING.
THE PHOENIX LONGS TO SPREAD HER WINGS AND FLY TO NEW WORLDS.
BUT NOT YET.
NOT UNTIL WE CAN LEAVE THIS ONE...IN BETTER HANDS.

MANY YEARS LATER.
KRUKROOOM
GRRRREEEGGH! IT'S HAPPENING. FEELS LIKE...
...LIKE GIVING BIRTH TO A STORM!
THE BABE IS CRYING IN THE WOMB, LADY GAEA.
THUNDER IS HIS CRYING.
SUCH IS HIS STRENGTH THAT HE MAY DESTROY THE WORLD BEFORE EVEN BEING BORN.
THIS WILL NOT GO UNNOTICED.
IT HASN'T.
GREETINGS, EARTH MOTHER GAEA. I AM AGAMOTTO, THE SORCERER SUPREME.
MY SPELLS CAN SOOTHE YOUR PAIN.
THE OLD WIZARD WAS THE FIRST TO ARRIVE.
AS HE HAD FORESEEN THE BIRTH WHILE EXPLORING THE ASTRAL PLANES, CHARTING THEM FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

THE FIASCO OF ODIN'S WOULD-BE WEDDING HAD IRREVOCABLY SHATTERED EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES.
THEY HAD NOT ASSEMBLED SINCE.
THE GHOST RIDER HAD JOURNEYED THROUGH THE SHADOWS, PUNISHING THE SINFUL.
HIS ONLY COMPANY, HIS WOOLY MAMMOTH RIDE... AND THE SCREAMS OF THE UNREPENTANT.
BEEN A WHILE, BIG GUY. FIGURED YOU WERE DEAD.
THE STARBRAND BROODED ALONE IN THE NIGHT SKY, KEEPING WATCH FOR THREATS FROM OTHER WORLDS...
GRRRGGH!
YEAH, I DIDN'T MISS YOU MUCH EITHER, PAL.
...DISPENSING THE WHITE-HOT VENGEANCE OF THE STARS.

HIDDEN DEEP WITHIN THEIR MOUNTAIN OF VIBRANIUM, THE PANTHER TRIBE FELT THE RUMBLINGS OF THE COMING BIRTH.
THEY REACTED AS THEY HAD SINCE THE FALL OF THEIR GREAT PROTECTOR.
THEY CLOSED THEIR DOORS.
AND DARED ANYONE TO TRY AND OPEN THEM.
HRRREEIIIIIGH!!!
DRINK THIS, MY LADY.
THE IRON FIST STILL WATCHED OVER THE HERDS OF HUMANS LIKE A SHEPHERD AND SOMETIMES GATHERED NEW HEROES TO STAND WITH HER IN DEFENSE OF THE PLANET.
A KNIGHT OF THE MOON. A TALKING PLANT-BEAST. A WARLORD FROM BENEATH THE WAVES.
IT WILL HELP WITH THE PAIN.
WHEN SHE CAME TO THE BIRTHING CAVE, SHE BROUGHT WITH HER THE ANCIENT MEDICINES OF MYSTICAL K'UN-LUN. AND ALSO...A WARNING.
COLD WINDS BLOW THAT ARE NOT OF THIS EARTH. THIS BABE ALREADY HAS ENEMIES.
I SENSE THE SAME.
WE WILL NEED ALL OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES THIS NIGHT...

"...BE THEY MAN OR MONSTER..."
HO!
OH HELL. KILL ME NOW.
"...OR EVEN GOD."
IS IT DONE?!
HAVE THE WHELP CLEANED AND BROUGHT BEFORE ME! AND LET US DRINK TO HIS NAME!
WHATEVER... THAT IS!
AYE, LET US DRINK TO THE MEWLING BRAT!
LET US DRINK TO HIS DEATH!

LAUFEY! YOU DARE DEFILE MY CHILD'S--
I SWORE I WOULD REPAY MY DEBT TO YOU, ASGARDIAN!
GUUGH!
AYE, MY KING! IN GOD-BLOOD!
AAAARRRGGGH!!! IT BURNS!!!
WHAT?
YOU!!!
NO ONE EXPECTED TO SEE THE PHOENIX THAT DAY.
BUT NO ONE ELSE KNEW THE TRUTH OF THE CHILD'S BIRTH.

NO ONE EXCEPT HIS MOTHERS.
SOMETIME EARLIER.
SO, THEY CAN BE TAUGHT TO DO SOMETHING OTHER THAN DESTROY.
AYE, WITH A FAIR BIT OF EFFORT. IT HELPS TO HAVE THE PATIENCE OF AN ELDER GOD.
I'M AFRAID, LADY GAEA, THAT I'VE NEVER FOUND PATIENCE TO BE AMONG THE GIFTS OF THE PHOENIX.
FROM WHAT I HEAR, YOU'VE BEEN DOING PLENTY OF TEACHING OF YOUR OWN.
I DO WHAT I CAN, TO WATCH AFTER THOSE SEEN AS MISFITS. TO SHOW THEM THAT THIS WORLD BELONGS TO THEM AS WELL.
SO IT DOES. THIS I SWEAR TO YOU, AS MOTHER OF IT ALL.
THEN WE AGREE THAT BEINGS LIKE US MUST DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO PROTECT ALL THE LIVING CREATURES ON THIS PLANET.
THAT'S WHY I'VE COME TO YOU, GAEA, GODDESS OF THE EARTH.
WITH A PROPOSAL.

A PROPOSAL? YOU SOUND LIKE ODIN. AND THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS HOW YOU FELT ABOUT HIS PROPOSAL.
YES. WHICH HAS ONLY INFLAMED HIS ANGER. ANGER TOWARD ME FOR REJECTING HIM.
FOR CHOOSING THIS WORLD AND ITS PEOPLE...PRIMITIVE AND STUBBORN THOUGH THEY BE...OVER THE HAND OF THE ALL-FATHER.
HIS ANGER AND SHAME...HAVE MADE THE GOD OF GODS... TURN HIS BACK ON MAN.
MAN HAS OTHER GODS AND GODDESSES. AND MIGHTY PROTECTORS OF THEIR OWN. YOU MOST POWERFUL AMONG THEM.
I HAVE BEEN AMONG THEM, YES. BUT I WON'T BE FOREVER.
THE PHOENIX MUST FLY FREE OR RISK...BEING BOUND BY DARKNESS... I HAVE STAYED ABOUT AS LONG AS I DARE.
THE ONLY THING THAT HOLDS ME BACK... IS FEAR. FEAR OVER WHO WILL GUARD THIS WORLD ONCE I AM GONE. FEAR THAT THE GODS DON'T HAVE A REASON TO CARE.
I KNOW THAT ODIN HAS SOUGHT TO COURT YOU.
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO CALL IT. SINCE YOU REBUFFED HIM, HE'S MADE ADVANCES TOWARD MOST EVERY GODDESS IN EXISTENCE.
WHAT IF YOU WERE TO SAY YES TO HIM?

I THINK EVEN I DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH PATIENCE.
HE IS...NOT AS MUCH OF A **BUFFOON** AS HE SOMETIMES TRIES SO VERY FIERCELY TO BE.
YOU **LOVED** HIM ONCE? **TRULY?**
PERHAPS I STILL DO. AS MUCH AS THE FIRE INSIDE ME WILL ALLOW.
BEING A LOVER. A BRIDE. A...
...A **MOTHER.** THESE THINGS ARE... NOT THE WILL OF THE PHOENIX.
NOT FOR **ME.**
BUT YOU, MY LADY...
AYE, I HAVE LIVED BY MANY NAMES, SIRING MANY CHILDREN, WITH MANY DIFFERENT FATHERS.
MOST OF THEM DEITIES OR COSMIC ENTITIES, AT LEAST ONE OF THEM A TALKING TREE. SUCH ARE THE SEX LIVES OF THE GODS.
BUT **ODIN...**
GAEA...
...THIS WORLD DESERVES MORE GODS LIKE **YOU.** GODS WHO GIVE A DAMN.
GODS OF ITS **OWN.**
YOU POOR CREATURE. IT'S NOT ODIN THAT'S GOT YOU SO LOVESICK.
YOU **ADORE** THIS POOR, LOST **PLANET** JUST AS MUCH AS I DO.
WITH ALL THE EMBERS IN MY HEART.
I LOVE IT SO MUCH...THAT I MUST LEAVE IT. BEFORE I BURN IT TO ASH.
BUT NOT UNTIL I MAKE CERTAIN THAT IT'S PROTECTED. FROM **MONSTERS** LIKE ME.

YOU ARE NO MORE A MONSTER THAN I AM A BREEDING MARE, DEAR. I WILL NOT GIVE BIRTH TO A CHILD PURELY TO TRY TO MANUFACTURE A BENEVOLENT GOD.
IF WE HOPE THE BABE TO BE A LOVING DEITY, THEY MUST FIRST BE BORN OF LOVE.
FOR YOU, PHOENIX...I WILL GIVE ODIN A CHANCE, WHERE BEFORE HE HAD NONE.
AND IF THE GOD YOU SAY YOU LOVED STILL EXISTS UNDERNEATH THAT BEARD AND THOSE RIDICULOUS HELMETS, WELL...
...THEN WE SHALL SEE WHAT SORT OF LOVE STORY THE FATES MAY WEAVE.
THANK YOU, GAEA.
NO, THE THANKS WILL BE TO YOU, MY LADY, WHETHER ANYONE EVER KNOWS IT OR NOT.
FOR IF THIS GOD-CHILD SHOULD SOMEDAY BE BORN OF THE UNION OF THE GODDESS OF MIDGARD AND THE SKY-FATHER OF ASGARD...
...YOU WILL BE JUST AS MUCH THEIR MOTHER AS I.
OH, GAEA.
LIKE ALL GREAT LOVE STORIES...IT BEGAN WITH A KISS.

ONE THAT BORE MIGHTY FRUIT.
HE'S... HE'S SO BEAUTIFUL.
CONGRATULATIONS, LADY GAEA. NOW PLEASE, WHENEVER YOU'RE ABLE...
...TAKE THE CHILD AND RUN!
SPRITES! FETCH ME A SWORD!
BEHOLD, WE BRING YOU TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY!
ALL HAIL THE LITTLE KING!
NO!!!

THE PHOENIX FELT THE CUT OF THE FROZEN SWORD, AS SURELY AS IF IT HAD BEEN HER OWN FLESH.
JUST A NICK OF THE BLADE. BUT IT WAS ENOUGH.
PHOENIX! THE BABY!
TO TURN THE CHILD TO ICE.
HELP HIM!
A RED-HAIRED CAVE-WOMAN WITHOUT A TRUE NAME, RAISED BY WOLVES.
SHE HAD OFTEN WONDERED OVER THE YEARS WHY SUCH A FORCE OF COSMIC CHAOS AND REBIRTH HAD CHOSEN HER.
NOW SHE KNEW.

AS THE PHOENIX BURNED LIKE NEVER BEFORE.
AND BREATHED THE FIRES OF LIFE BACK INTO THE CHILD.
THE CHILD OF THE GODDESS OF MIDGARD AND THE ALL-FATHER OF ASGARD...

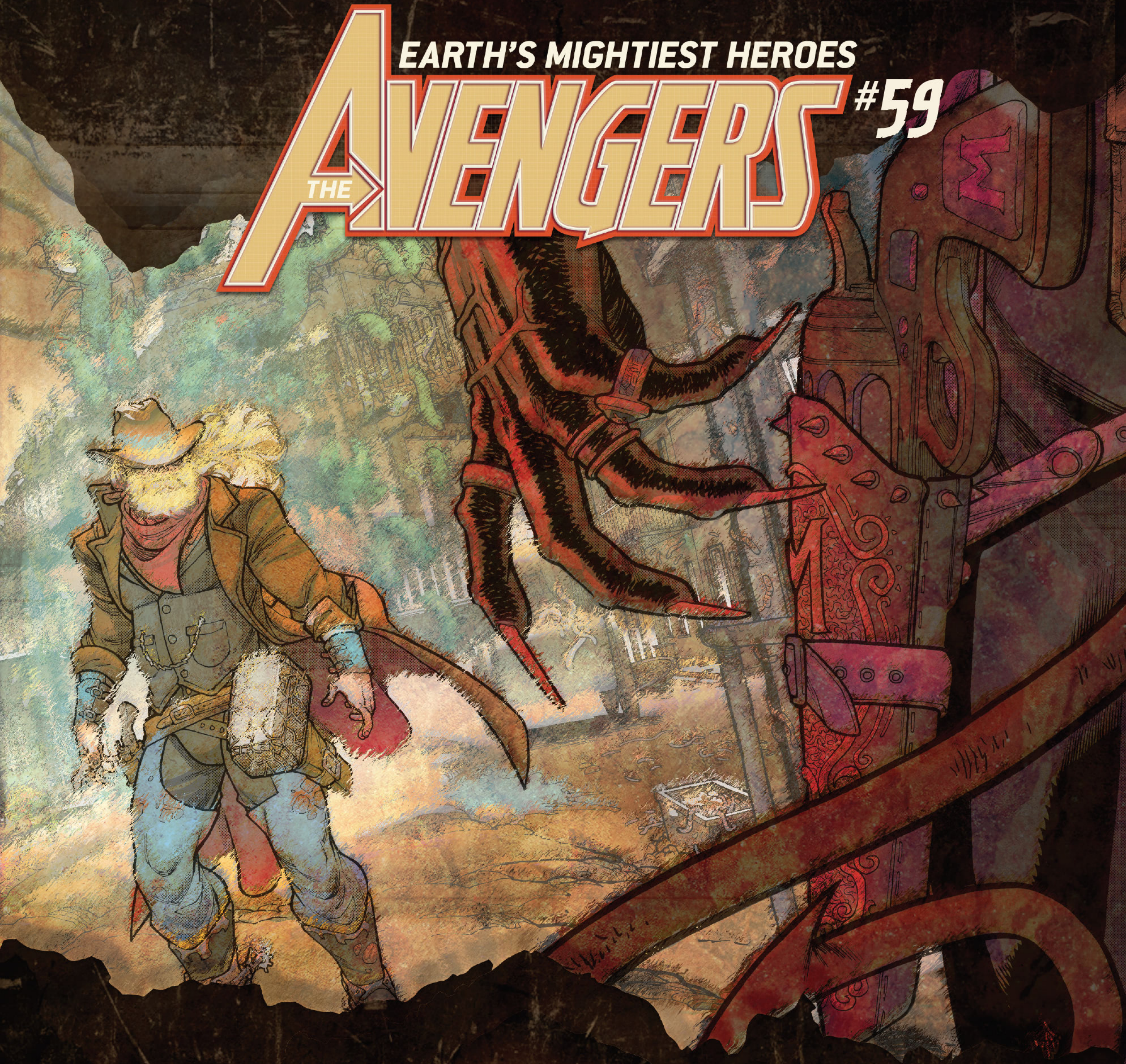
...AND A FIREBIRD FROM BEYOND THE STARS.
A CHILD WHOSE FIRST BREATH WAS FLAME.
FLAME AND THUNDER IN THE SKIES OF EARTH.
KRAKADDA
A CHILD NAMED
THOR.
SOON, THERE WOULD BE GREAT REJOICING IN THE HEAVENS.

BUT THE PHOENIX WOULD NOT BE INVITED.
UNHAND MY CHILD!
WE'RE TAKING HIM TO ASGARD AT ONCE!
AND YOU! STAY AWAY FROM MY FAMILY!
SHE TRIED TO REMAIN ON EARTH A BIT LONGER.
TO WATCH THE CHILD GROW.
BUT THERE WERE STORMS EVERY TIME THE BABE CRIED IN THE HEAVENS.
STORMS THAT SHOOK THE WORLD TREE AND EVERY REALM PERCHED AMONG ITS BRANCHES.
BUT THAT SHOOK HER MOST OF ALL.
GOODBYE, MY LOVE.

WHEREVER THE PHOENIX JOURNEYED IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED...
...NO MATTER THE PLANET OR WHAT STRANGE AND DISTANT SKY THROUGH WHICH SHE FLEW...
...SHE ALWAYS AVOIDED STORM CLOUDS WHENEVER SHE COULD.
EVEN FOR A BEING WHO COULD WALK UPON STARS AND TEAR WORLDS APART WITH HER HANDS...
...THE SIMPLE SOUND OF THUNDER...
...WAS TOO MUCH TO BEAR.

ON SALE NOW: THE LEGEND OF **RENO PHOENIX** AND THE **STARBRAND KID!**

The Avengers' journey through time brings them to the Old West, where they cross paths with a couple of History's Mightiest Heroes, whose six-guns are loaded with the greatest powers of the heavens. But is that enough to force a showdown with the forces of Mephisto? Or will the Avengers be lost in time forever?



AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

Email us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and mark your messages "Okay to Print" for a chance to see them answered in future issues!

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